

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STARK: BUSH BUDGET FALLS SHORT ON TRUTH AND VALUES

WASHINGTON, DC -- Today, Rep. Pete Stark (D-Fremont) spoke out against the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2006. The following is his statement:

"President Bush claims he shares the values of a majority of Americans. Yet today, he presents a budget to Congress that utterly fails any test of moral values. He shortchanges virtually every social program that assists working families in order to extend tax cuts for the wealthy, privatize Social Security and fund an illegitimate war in Iraq.

"What definition of morality would impose massive cuts in Medicaid which endangers health care for children, pregnant women, people with disabilities and senior citizens in nursing homes?

"How is it moral to eliminate programs that provide mentoring and educational assistance to help low-income students attain a college education, create a safe and drug free school environment and ensure that each classroom has access to 21st century technology?

"How moral is it to prevent thousands of children living in poverty from receiving food stamps?

"His budget also falls short of the truth. President Bush lauds this budget as reducing the deficit in half over the next five years. The budget achieves that projection only by leaving out massive spending categories.

"The President's top agenda item is privatizing Social Security. That objective alone will cost \$2 trillion in the next decade. The President is continuing to fund the ill-fated Iraq war. He'll be asking Congress for \$80 billion more toward that effort this very month. The President is going to pursue permanent extensions of his tax cuts which will cost trillions into the future. Yet, those costs are not accounted for in his budget.

"I have a 9-year-old son who would love to be able to pass his math class using the logic presented by President Bush in this budget. Apparently, once President Bush decides what he wants the answer to be, it is irrelevant if the numbers add up. He's left out the costs of his Social Security privatization scheme, extending his tax cuts, and the costs of the Iraq war.

"Unfortunately, the President's math only works for the presentation of his budget – it doesn't

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hold true for the future. My son and the rest of our children and grandchildren will be saddled with paying for his fuzzy math for the rest of their lives.”